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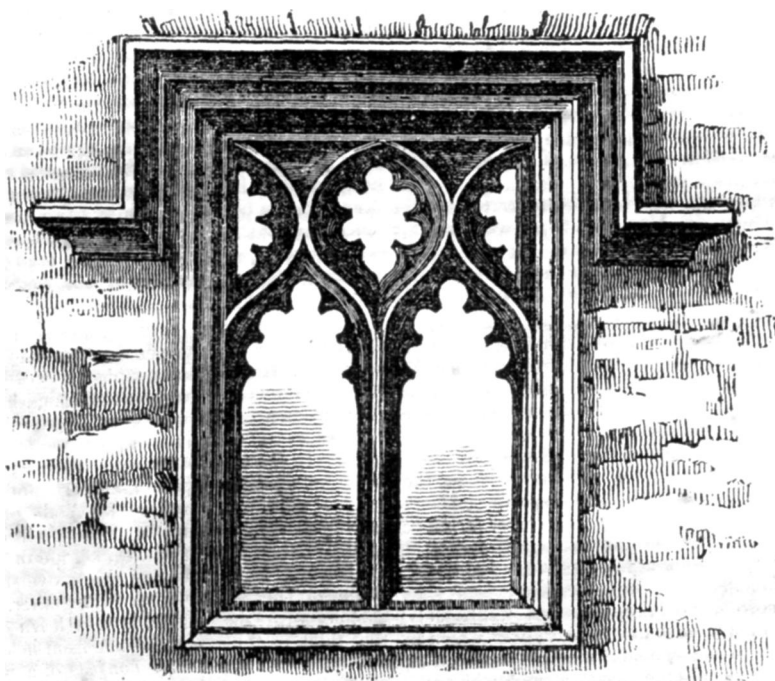
It is true, nearly all the extensive monastic and baronial edifices in Ireland are already before the public; but there is another class of buildings that has been generally unnoticed. I mean the small chapels or oratories, (several of which may be denoted *gens*) and the number of which, as these lie scattered over the face of the country, must impress on the mind of the beholder a high opinion of the piety, or at least, the zeal of our ancestors. These were chiefly erected near the mansion or castle of the lord of the soil, and in process of time generally became parochial, the estate constituting the parish. Occasionally they were built on spots already consecrated by the residence of an anchorite, or hermit, or on the site of a decayed monastery or abbey; and not unfrequently owed their origin to the performance of a vow, or for the support of an ecclesiastic whose office it was to pray for the soul of the founder, whose tomb usually was within the walls and sometimes constituted the altar.

Numbers of these have disappeared, but their sites are still pointed out by the lowly graves of the humble poor, who still seem to have a predilection for them as places of sepulture. However, many of them survive, and with their unadorned belfrys, or ivy-mantled chancel arch,

form, in conjunction with the surrounding scenery, objects at once pleasing and interesting.

In the counties of Meath and Louth, these remains are extremely numerous. Between Slane and the sea, a distance of eight miles, there are no less than nine, placed alternately on either bank of the river Boyne, namely—Finnar, Monk Newtown, Rosnareigh, Dowth, Dunore, Newtown Drogheda, Stagruman, Beaulieu, and Mornington; and the coast of the latter county, from the mouth of that river to Dunany point, is literally studded with them. They are generally of one character; the side walls low, and the gables rising into high pediments, and so giving a considerable pitch to the roof.

The church of Kilsharvan appears to be of great antiquity, and is still much used as a burial place. Of the portions of the walls that remain, the most prominent are the chancel arch, which is pointed and clothed with ivy, and a semicircular arch dividing the nave from the choir. In the south wall are two windows, square-headed and deeply recessed, with mullions and tracery, and having a bold projecting label moulding; they are beautifully executed, and one of them is nearly perfect, of which I send a sketch. Attached to the N. E. angle is a small apartment, the entrance from the chancel, probably intended for the purpose before mentioned.



Kilsharvan church is situate one mile and a half east of Duleek, (on the celebrated abbey of which it formerly depended,) and near the banks of the pleasing little river Nanny, which washes the walls of Athcarne, and gliding past Duleek, and meandering through a lovely valley under Dardistown castle, here is employed for the purposes of a bleach-green, flowing on under Julianstown bridge, (famous for the defeat and total destruction of two regiments of infantry, despatched from Dublin to succour the garrison of Drogheda, during the siege of that town in 1641;) it takes a bold sweep under the fine old castle of Ballygarth, proudly seated on its banks; and finally falls into the Irish sea at Laytown.

The situation of Kilsharvan is that of calm, quiet, peaceable solitude; embowered by trees, which harmonize with the ruins, and add, by their shade, a degree of peculiar awe and repose to the scene.

I have not been able to ascertain the founder, or probable date of erection of this church. The property now is in the possession of Andrew Armstrong, Esq., who has lately much improved the scenery, and remodelled the mansion-house in a style which does infinite credit to his taste, and that of the architect, Mr. Austin Nicholls, of Drogheda, who was employed by him on the occasion. R. A.

CURIOUS EPITAPH.

COPIED FROM A MONUMENT IN DUNKELD ABBEY,
SCOTLAND.

Marion Scott, died at Dunkeld, Nov. 21, 1727, and was buried in the Abbey.

Stay, passenger, until my life you read:
The living may get knowledge from the dead.
Five times five years I've lived a virgin life;
Five times ten years I was a virtuous wife;
Five times ten years I was a widow chaste;
Now wearied of this mortal life I rest.
Between my cradle and the grave have seen
Eight mighty Kings of Scotland, and a Queen:
Four times five years a commonwealth I saw;
Six times the subjects rose against the law
Twice did I see old prelacy pulled down,
And twice the cloak was humbled by the gown.
An end of Stuart's race I saw, nay more—
I saw my country sold for English ore.
Such desolation in my life hath been,
An end to all perfection I have seen.

She lived in the reigns of James VI.—Charles I.—Oliver Cromwell.—Charles II.—James VII.—William III.
Mary.—Anne.—George I. and Geo. II.